

Message Text

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62

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-15 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 015076

R 041505Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8926

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN GY

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 195022

1. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS CONSTITUTE INTERIM REPLY TO REFTEL.
EMB WILL ATTEMPT DEVELOP MORE CONCRETE ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC
QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE.

2. EMB REGRETS DID NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT MOFA NOTE ANNOUNCING
GOG DECISION NEGOTIATE BILATERALS WAS CIRCULAR NOTE. WORDS
"EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" AND "GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" WERE TYPED INTO BLANK
SPACES ON MIMEOGRAPHED FORM. IDENTICAL NOTES THUS PRESUMABLY
WENT TO ALL GOVERNMENTS HAVING AIRLINES WHICH PROVIDE SERVICE
TO GUYANA. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
HERE RECEIVED NOTE AND UNDERSTAND FROM DUTCH CONSULATE
GENERAL THAT DUTCH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN PORT-OF-SPAIN,
BOTH ACCREDITED HERE, ALSO RECEIVED NOTE. THUS THERE IS NO
DIRECT QUESTION OF GOG DISSATISFACTION WITH US AIRLINE
OPERATIONS HERE OR ANY IMPLICATION THAT DECISION AIMED AT
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US IN PARTICULAR. WHATEVER MAY BE BEHIND IT.

3. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT GOG SIMPLY WISHES OBTAIN BETTER OVERALL CONTROL OVER TOTAL INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE BEING PROVIDED HERE, AS IT ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT, WITH POSSIBLE OBJECTIVE OF ATTEMPTING RATIONALIZE FREQUENCIES, SERVICES, ROUTES AND DIVISION OF TRAFFIC. THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH GROWING SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONALISM AND DETERMINATION "OWN AND CONTROL NATION'S RESOURCES."

4. GOG RECENTLY CONCLUDED CIVIL AVITATION AGREEMENT WITH CUBA. IT POSSIBLE CUBANS EXTRACTED AGREEMENT THAT BILATERALS BE CONCLUDED WITH OTHERS, OR THAT OBJECTIVE IS TO DIVERT SHARE OF TRAFFIC TO CUBANA IN DEVELOPING PATTERN OF AUTHORIZED ROUTES AND TRAFFIC RIGHTS. BUT THIS IS ONLY SPECULATION ON EMB PART AT THIS STAGE. CUBANA IS INAUGURATING WEEKLY PASSENGER AND CARGO FLIGHTS THIS WEEK: WEDNESDAYS HAVANA-BRIDGETOWN-PORT OF SPAIN-GEORGETOWN WITH RETURN ON THURSDAYS, USING 100 PASSENGER ILLUYSHIN 18AIRCRAFTWITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN ALL POINTS. GUYANA AIRWAYS WILL BE LOCAL AGENT.

5. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, WHICH WE WILL TRY TO LOOK INTO IN NEXT FEW DAYS, IS THAT GOG MAY WISH TAKE OVER FOR ITSELF ALL SERVICING OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS STOPPING AT TIMEHRI.

6. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS FACTOR IN DECISION NEGOTIATE BILATERALS, FACT IS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GRUMBLING HERE OVER PANAM'S NUMEROUS CHANGES OF FREQUENCIES AND SCHEDULES IN RECENT MONTHS. PRESENT TWICE WEEKLY 2:00 A.M. ARRIVALS AND 5:30 A.M. DEPARTURES HIGHLY INCONVENIENT TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OFHOUR'S DRIVE OVER TORTUOUS AND DANGEROUS ROAD.

7. IN PERHAPS RELATED MOVE, MINISTRY OF WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON OCT 2 ISSUED PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING INTRODUCTION OF "SPECIAL SEVEN-DAY RETURN FARES FOR TRAVEL WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY." STATES THAT CONSEQUENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) AND IN ORDER FACILITATE TRAVEL WITHIN IT, NEW REDUCED FARES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BONA FIDE RESIDENTS OF GUYANA, TRINIDAD AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOBAGO, BARBADOS AND JAMAICA FOR TRAVEL ON BWIA MONDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS EXCEPT DURING MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST. TODAY'S PRESS INDICATES ANNOUNCEMENT "PREMATURE" AS NEW RATE STRUCTURE NOT YET APPROVED BY OTHER CARICOM COUNTRIES, BUT EXPRESSES HOPE SUCH APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. KING

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